

Remarques;
ON THE
H U M O U R S
AND
Conversations
OF THE
TOWN.

H. C. for T.

Written in a Letter to S^r T. L.

L O N D O N,

Printed for *Allen Banks*, at the sign of
St. Peter at the West end of
St. Pauls. 1673.

Remarks

ON THE

HUMORS

AND

Constitutions

OF THE

TOWN.



Written in a Letter to S. T. L.

LONDON,

Printed for John Smith, at the sign of
St. George in the Ward of
St. Paul, 1773.

TO THE
READER.

THou hast often, without
doubt Reader, heard
of a sort of despised
Animals, call'd Coun-
try-Gentleman: & if thou frequentest
the Playhouse, thou hast there
seen one brought in with a high-
crowned Fellow, a Sword put through
the waist of one; Birches,
and a half antick top, where

we tamely stand, whilst the learned
man of Humours practises upon us
with his sleights, and intrigues.
And if thou usest the company of
the Wits, thou knowest that we fur-
nish them with their most pleasant
entertainment. Nay, if the Poet
out of an excess of his bounty, is
inclin'd to refresh the company with
an extraordinary treat of Humour,
we are the men with whom he com-
poses the Regalio; where he swells
and looks big, to see the success
of his victorious Stratagems. We
should be glad that our Masters
the Poets can make any use of us,
considering our unpolish'd and rough
capacities; but in the meantime
they must take it kindly from us

if we advise some of them also,
to look well to their own glory, and to
appear less ridiculous themselves, lest
they should become the scorn of
their own Vassals. They cannot
take it ill from us, if we desire
a little to pry into those admirable
things for which they are so much
admired; the humour of our climate
Abandons that Eastern State, of
demanding adoration to powers
wrapt up in Clouds. We have ta-
ken the boldness to approach the
Heroes, and to examine their Geni-
us; which in many of them, we find
not only the most wild and extra-
vagant, but the most idle and tri-
fling that ever bestrid an Age. And
certainly either Historians have been

much to blame, in recommending to us a pompous name of Virtue, Glory, and Renown, acquired by our Ancestors, making that appear noble and useful to mankind, which was dull and rude, or else their Children have nothing in them worthy of their Fathers: In things so different and unlike, either they, or we must strangely have miscarried; and this we must say in favour of those that liv'd before us, that what they did was gravely and silently, but the acquists of this Age, are made with a strange affectation and noise; our smallest performances creating in us more pride, than their mighty achievements did in them, and swelling us

to a contempt of all those who are not at leisure to appear as ridiculous as our selves. The following paper cannot be accused of doing injustice to any, since all are obliged to give the liberty they take: and as for the rest, since it do's not reflect on particular men, the Author might with reason expect that good nature from them, which they extend to comical entertainments: all are content to be taken to pieces in a Play-house; and to be exhibited for divertisement on the Stage; which are much unkindler reflections than are made in this paper. Besides, since we have to do with nothing but blemishes and errors, the Laws of writing allow those to be insisted

on, for the admonishing of others. What could be done less than to reckon up the ordinary follies of the Town life, to a person who we desired should value the innocence and manliness of a Country one. We have too great a kindness for our Relations, to desire that they should that way aspire to be Heroes; but that they should rather reserve themselves for fairer occasions of acquiring glory. Our rural affairs, and innocence, afford us that employment, that we are not at leisure to mind the Towns treatment of us; and if we might in the Country but be free from the communication of their Vices, we should easily resign them all our pretences to their
renown

renown and pleasures: 'tis not an
envy of their Grandures, transports
us to make remarks on their way of
living, nor their Drolleries on us,
that excite us to revenge, they are
an unequal match for us to encoun-
ter; one stab of a Sonnet, would
be mortal to the little sence we have
acquired; and we only remonstrate
to others, and not presume to find
errours in such labour'd Editions of
their great capacities. And we be-
sides, know the vanity of affron-
ting the Darlings of Fame; and
we rather sit down with a submission
to the capricio of her phancy,
than endeavour to reclaim her femi-
nine humour: we would prevent her
from aggrandizing any of our
A 5 friends

friends with favours worse than infamy; and we wish so well to her Heroes, that they may triumph alone in their excess of felicity: yet if there should come a time that she might discard them, we desire not to step into their fortune; and only wish that they who next share in her esteem, may be the Authors of more benefits, and good Offices to mankind, than her present Missions have been: but if she continues in the same humour, we cannot but pity those who come after us, that will through the mists of so much Vanity, see less clearly the glory and renown of former Ages; and feel at a greater distance, a less force from that emulation.

I do

I do not speak this, as if the Town were not abundantly furnished with persons of both sexes, that are excellent in their Generations both for understanding, good Government, and Vertue; but still these fair endowments are rather blessings to themselves than examples to others, for they live private and to their own Consciences, whereas Vice and Vanity walk bare-faced; and the Mode and humour of the times (how corrupted soever) passeth for the standard of Wit and good Company.

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T was, Sir, both with
trouble and surprize,
that I received from
my Lady, your re-
olutions of going to spend
some years in *London*; and that,
not only through the compas-
sion I have, for the affliction
you will thereby bring to so
affectionate and tender a Mo-
ther; but also a real pity, to
see you expose qualities of so
much innocence and vertue,
to the ravenous and devouring
Vices of the Town: I know by
a long experience in that place
that

that the life of a young Gentleman, led there, is for the greater part vicious, sottish, and prophane, and not only degenerated below the precepts of ancient gallantry and generosity; but beneath that prudence, sobriety, and discretion, which ought to be found in all who pretend to man-hood. *England*, that first took its Vices from the bordering Nations, has now out-done them; and by its over-apeing humour, exceeded the pattern of its crimes; Whilst *France* formerly esteemed the most fantastick Country of the Universe, has of late rescued it self from some

Some of its follies, and be-
 queath'd to us those Values of
 which it is now grown
 ashamed; and we are be-
 come the more trifling and
 effeminate Nation of the two,
 and the place you go to visit,
 is the intoxicated and giddy
 head of all these Vanities. The
 education you have hitherto
 had amongst your friends, has
 been agreeable to the ancient
 Precepts of nobleness, gene-
 rosity, and vertue, but when
 you come to the Town, you
 must be told that these things
 are set formalities, and out
 of Mode, and not suitable to
 that careless and undesigning
 way

way of living now in use; careless and undesigning with a witness! Which owes its Epithites to the neglect of all virtue, and the blind impetuosity of humour: their way of living is now removed out of the Road hedg'd in by the prudence and justice of our Ancestors; and acknowledges no course inglorious and irregular: the admired wit to which they pretend, and in which they so much triumph, is of so hot a mettle, that it has leap'd the Fence of Ages, and takes its wild career over all the Inclosures of the Universe; and it is now on so fierce

fierce a speed, that where it
 will stop, even Astrology can-
 not assure us. Our Ance-
 stors deserv'd the fame of a
 better management, who
 considered equally, their own
 satisfaction, and the good of
 the world, and in that pra-
 ctised a moderation, which
 freed humane affairs from
 those inconveniencies and sur-
 feits they suffer from their
 Children. To be serious and
 to be wise, was a reputation
 great enough to them, and
 they coveted not the triumphs
 reap'd from the heights of
 frenzy and madness: the
 Town was then a place of bet-
 ter

ter education, and its conver-
 sation was manly, accomplisht
 and innocent; and a Gallant
 then visiting the Country,
 came furnisht with something
 more excellent than a bundle
 of Sonnets, bringing with him,
 from the fountain of the re-
 finedst conversation, a richer
 sence than was sung at the cor-
 ner of every street: yet this is
 the advantage they commu-
 nicate to us now, affording us
 only the knowledge of those
 trifling things, which we
 esteem our felicity to be with-
 out; whilst yet they are plea-
 sed to value themselves highly
 on such a sufficiency, and to
 despise

despise us for being defective in those accomplishments; and yet these Gentlemen thirst after the fame of Heroes, & extraordinary men. The real advantages then which you propose to your self, Sir, are nothing important in that sort of life, whilst the inconveniencies will be very considerable: it is necessary you should think on what you abandon in quitting the Country, which yet are advantageous things, if you will put your self to the trouble of reflecting on them.

You have just reason to believe, and you have the vogue of the world, to concur with
you

you in such an opinion ; that
 all the accomplishments of
 Woman-kind, are to be found
 in your excellent Mother ; her
 great wit, her prudence, her
 port and manner of living,
 rendering her self, & her house
 most considerable. And though
 there is usually that awe im-
 printed on us by the severities
 of education, as makes us de-
 sire to spend our youth far
 from our Parents, out of a love
 of childish liberty and fro-
 licks ; yet my Ladies carriage
 to you, has still been attended
 with that sweetness, and pru-
 dence, as perfectly to over-
 come an unpleasant obsequi-
 ousness

ousness in you : it is true her discretion would not permit her to indulge you in any vicious liberties, like those fond and imprudent Mothers, who think they cannot shew their love enough to an only Son, unless they comply with all their extravagancies; and consider them alwaies as Children that must have their wills, so losing betimes that authority, and respect, which the ill-educated Boy has never after grace enough to acknowledge : and then, like some sort of Lovers, they please themselves in their own kindness; and in supporting the neglects

neglects of their children; with a patience truly a reproach to their dignity and duty : my Lady has lov'd your accomplishments in Vertue, and excellent qualities too well, to permit you an extravagant liberty ; but yet she did these things, with a sweetness and an air, that demonstrated at the same time the pleasures of her conduct. She considered that you were her only Son, but yet she did not from such a reflection, become presently of the opinion ; that she could not appear fond enough of you, nor with too much freedom let you know the

the pleasure she took in you; but with greater wisdom and generosity, she thought it her duty, to endeavour to make appear in you, the vertue and the hopes of many Sons; well knowing, that a wild Liberty (usually the effect of a declared fondness) would have been the reproach of your family and of her conduct: and that it would have been worse to have you live with so much infamy, (what ever the Age may discourse to the contrary) than to bury you with the universal compassion and grief, paid to the death of a hopeful Gentleman.

More-

Moreover she considered, that a Mother is a stranger assumed into a Family; and that she is on that score to discharge the trust she stands obliged in to that Race; she is not to gratifie her particular fondness, but to govern her self by the glory and the interest of a name: so that any just severity in a Mother, is not to be looked upon as her peculiar resentments, but her respect to that Duty she stands obliged to perform. I remind you of all this, Sir, because you are now arrived to an Age of consideration, and to invite you to reflect on the grand obligation

obligations you have to my Lady, for her manner of educating you ; in which you will see a little ingratitude, in being opposite to her desires of keeping you with her ; let the Humourists of this Age talk what they please, of the height of Spirit, and the gallantry of despising the Regiment of a Mother ; they must show us a greater advantage they make of that liberty, than lying perpetually in Play-houses, Taverns, and Whore-houses, before we can agree to their extravagant sentiments : neither is it my Ladies fondness of keeping you

B

with

with her, so much as her fear
 of having you debauched,
 which now perplexes her;
 she would willingly spare you
 for any glorious or advanta-
 geous adventures; if it were
 for the service of your Prince;
 or the defence of your Coun-
 try, she would blush to with-
 hold you from pursuing such
 noble enterprizes, and she had
 rather loose you to the world,
 than to your Vertue, and the
 true glory of your Ancestors:
 but she fears the Vices of the
 Town, more than the Arms
 of an Enemy; and the slavery
 of those Humours, worse
 than the Fetters of a Con-
 querour.

querour. She would rejoyce
to see you stick fresh Laurels
in the Garlands of your An-
cestors, and she would freely
abandon you to those fields
where you might gather
them; but what Bayes you
are like to purchase in Town,
or what perfections you are
like to learn there, which
may be truly enobling to a
Gentleman, cannot possibly
be made appear to her. But,
Sir, if you believe that all
this stands on a childish pun-
tillo of gratitude, and a fond-
ness of your Parent, that
would make you ridiculous
to the Heroes of this Age;

you will find other things capable of detaining you in the Country.

It is agreed by all, that though conversation is a great felicity, and solace to Humane nature, yet that a life partly of that, and partly of leisure and retiredness, is most suitable to the affairs and interests of men. I speak not this (though I very well might) upon the account of what we owe to Religion; and we have found many of the greatest Monarchs, and the Administrators of Regal affairs, when they came to die, to complain of the hur-

ry and the bustle of those occurrences, that kept them from considering any thing of a life, to which all the interests of this appear but a shadow, and nothing, I say, I shall not so much present you with this, as those real advantages that occur to the accomplishment of men, by a due leisure & serenity: I know that Philosophy, is so far out of credit in this Age, that if I should present you with any thing out of that old profession, you would so far comply with the present Humour, as to despise me for a Pedant: but I hope that a just reason,

is not at the same time obliged to suffer by the *Janty* non-sence of the Town.

As our thoughts are the first images of our actions, so after they have lived in that condition, and been perfected by them, the fading beings, fall back again to the root from whence they grew; where like our separated minds, they live in pleasure, or in pain; the delight, or torment of reflections, being the Manes of past actions. And without doubt, many of the greatest performances of the world, were as much directed to the pleasures of remembrance,

membrance, as they were to the pleasures of action. We find in the Empire of Rome, how many prodigious difficulties, dangers, and toils were overcome by their Captains, only for the Fame and Glory of Triumph; it cannot be imagined, that the lustres of a day, could become a sufficient motive to such painful actions; but there must be a great deal ascribed to the contentment of considering it before it arrived, and the prospect of those pleasant reflections, that might be made when it was past; which were without doubt, as considerable,

ble, as were found in the acclamations of *Rome*, and the chariot of Triumphs: and the retirements of many famous men, from the noise of those affairs, in which they had lived, might be in some, for the pleasures of reflecting on what was past: and though the degrees of such felicities, are enjoyed only by those, who have had the same proportion of generous enterprises, yet the young, and unexperienced, are not wholly destitute of such a pleasure; the reviews of their own virtuous actions, may give them content; since all things of
this

this nature, are measured by the Capacity, and the extent of the knowledge; and he is happy in a little, that has not the Idæas of greater to converse with. Besides, there is the great delight, of seeing former Ages in the glasses of History: a prospect that also instructs at the same time that it pleases: there we may behold the beginning, flourishing and fading of Kingdoms; the rise, and fall of illustrious Personages; the transactions, occurrences, and intrigues of all Nations and affairs, appearing in the Oratory, and Remarques of some men,

with a greater pleasure than the prospect of such things could possible have given us. Action is but rude and imperfect in respect of the beauty, and life it receives from the accounts and imbellishments of History; and we may easily see more of a past Age, in the memoirs are transmitted of it, than we can of the present by having an interest in some of its actions: he that stands on high, takes a more perfect account of an agreeable show, than he that makes one of the Train: nay, I will venture to say further, that though he sees the action,

action, and the life, yet there is in this, the pleasures of the best conversation ; which is divertisement, and instruction : what can more please us, than to understand, how some men, from an obscure beginning, have reach'd all the heights of glory and renown : and how others again, born with the greatest pretences, have through variety of fortunes, descended down to the lowest conditions of men : to read the divers adventures of courage, beauty, and wit, and through how many scenes of various actions, they have conducted their Pretenders.

To.

To observe how many obstacles have been overcome by a persevering ambition; and yet at the same time, how the shock of a slight accident, has overthrown the industry of many years. To perceive the success of an intrigue, walking with a Masque in inquisitive Courts; which yet the dexterity and art of the Conductor, conveys unknown through all the Examiners. He that observes diligently, will find a great delight, in perceiving how some vast Empire, has at first, (like budding flowers) sprung out of the Earth; when being continually

continually blessed with the
 Sun-shine of success, and
 watered with fresh and vigo-
 rous Counfels, it has spread
 it self in so vast a Dominion;
 as to shade all the neighbou-
 ring Kingdoms; when at the
 same time, some petty Cabal,
 (like little worms at the root)
 bring a languishment and fa-
 ding over all its glories. Nei-
 ther do these studies instruct
 at a less rate than they delight;
 they enable us to give a ju-
 dicious opinion of present
 transactions; they fill the
 mind with the most excellent
 and generous Idæas; and they
 become moreover the true
 admo-

admonishers of the frailty of all. Those, Sir, who celebrate perpetual action, and reproach study, with drowsiness and idle sloath, ought themselves to be exercised in very advantageous business, since he that does nothing to the purpose, either of his own virtue, or the advantages of mankind, is guilty of a greater idleness than the imperial fly-catcher could be reproached with. It is study that is the best Principle of conversation; without which, it cannot be furnished with a just capacity to please; 'tis strange to observe

Of serve, how these great men
 of action, talk with a confi-
 dence equal to their Igno-
 rance; who understand no-
 thing but what is uttered in
 the company they keep;
 where their faithful memo-
 ries, preserve all new and
 gente words, but their dark
 Souls penetrate nothing into
 the worth of the harangue;
 which makes them perpetual-
 ly hunt for company, because
 they know not what to do
 when they are alone; except
 it be to practise a new Dance,
 or a modish Bow; all the
 business this Person has with
 former Ages, is to damn their
 old

old fashions, whilst he extravagantly celebrates the easiness of the new garniture. he that pretends to understand any thing beyond it, (in the opinion of most of them) is an affected Pedant, and of a rough and unpolisht conversation. I write not this, Sir, as if I lov'd a noise of learning, and laboured discourses; but it is necessary a Gentleman should understand something above the Breeches.

If we pass from this point, Sir, to the divertisements of the Country; you will find them innocent and manly, and much, for the preservati-
 on

on of your health, and the
 vigour of your mind; when
 you delight in the fierceness
 of a Horse, and pursue the
 Deer, you are busied in a no-
 other course, than if you were
 hunting a little Wench. You
 have besides variety of other
 sports, along the beautiful
 foot-cloaths of Nature: and
 when you are wearied with
 them, you will spend more
 sweetly the moments of re-
 pose; though you went to
 bed, without the triumphs of
 having worsted the Watch in
 your return from a Tavern,
 or of having at the head of a
 couple of Foot-boys, brave-
 ly

ly attack'd a Troop of Glass windows, that stood imbar- teled as you past to your lodgings ; or of having beat up the Quarters of some Bawd, who commanded a Squadron of Wenches. You will sleep well enough without the memory of such exploits, and never miss their Ideas to form you glorious dreams : instead of them, you may have the satisfaction not to have lost a good quantity of Guinies to a common Rook ; not to have plaid away a Lordship in an hour. In short, Sir, here you have the best air, the most manly divertisements, the most

most innocent (and yet not
foolish) company , which
much contribute to your
health, and the festivitie of
your Sences.

There is one thing too, of
which it will be necessary to
remind you, and that is what
you owe to Posterity, and the
continuance of your Family;
as you are an only Son, my
Lady presses you to Marry;
she has proposed to you a
Lady, illustrious for her for-
tune, beauty, and youth; and
in whose conversation, (be-
sides the advantageous effects)
you may meet with more
agreeable divertisements, than
in.

in the caresses of those whom you make love to with money : had not custom made it gallantry in a Gentleman, it would have appeared ridiculous, to spend a considerable part of a good Estate, upon her who perhaps Jilts you in a month or two ; and bestows those favours on another for inclination, which she forces her self to allow to you for her interest : this is found in considerable Mistresses of the Town, though the vanity and self flattery of some men is so great, as to make them believe there is that power in their worth

worth and caresses as to conquer the sovereignty of fancy ; and is it not then, Sir, more agreeable to a manly temper , (if there were no vertue in the action) to possess in an innocent Consort, that sincerity , which is never to be found in a Mistress ? Those who undervalue those contentments, should at the same time show their neglect of them in the whole Sex of Woman kind ; but to hear the most effeminate and lascivious Age of the world, mock at the vertuous felicitys of Love, is a thing worthy of scorn and contempt. Moreover ,
your

your resolutions are to marry,
 to continue your Family, and
 is it not better to do it now,
 whilst you are uncorrupted,
 than to present to your Lady
 (of a sweet and blooming
 youth) a body haraſſed with
 vicious Loves, and perhaps
 infected with innumerable
 diſtempers : this will not
 only be an odious ingratitude
 to her, but a grand miſcarriage
 to Poſterity; who may
 through ſome Generations,
 feel the ſmart of your Vices.
 In fine, Sir, the juſt care of
 your Eſtate, ought to have
 ſome place in your reſoluti-
 ons. A young Gentleman,
 whose

whose prudent Father has left
 him a round sum of ready
 money, thinks he is obliged,
 by that sort of tenure belongs
 to such an Estate, to throw
 most of it away extravagant-
 ly; as if Nature had establish'd
 that necessary variety, that
 the Parent who lays up, must
 have a Son to spend it: me-
 thinks it is so pleasant a sight,
 to see a young Gentleman re-
 turn home to his Country;
 after some years spent in the
 Town, with one third of his
 Estate cut off, or impounded
 by the Scrivener; and all the
 purchase he has made, with-
 in, so fair a portion of Fortune, is
 but

but a couple of Songs, or French Dance; a confident affectation to Swear without fear or wit, or to despise those who cannot name so many considerable Whores in the Town as himself. We have Sir, often been run down with these blustering Hectors, who think, that the modish nonsense which they bring from London, should be more valued than the civility and agreeableness of rural conversation. But we shall find enough of this sort of Gallantry, in examining the pleasures and entertainments of the Town.

Well then, Sir, if you neg-

lect

orlect these considerations, we
 will see what there is in that
 Town so much to be doted
 on; when you come first
 thither, you will find your
 self in a little distress; because
 though you may possibly
 understand as much of true
 sense, and good breeding as
 most of them, yet you will
 be at a loss, because the fa-
 shion there consists not in any
 thing that is real, but in odd
 terms, and fantastick Ideas;
 in a round of words, and
 strange punctilio's of action:
 certain it is, that all things we
 do, are shaped by those Ideas
 and Images that have the as-
 cendant

cendant of our minds ; and all our good as well as ill actions are agreeable to such Ideas ; so that you must diligently compare those with which you are now furnished, with them that govern the Gallants of the Town. You have hitherto believed, that your liberality and munificence, your sincerity to your Friend, the civility and sweetness of the address, with your moderation and justice, were most excellent qualities in a Gentleman ; you have accordingly lived to them, and have in their practice obtained an universal love and esteem ; but

but with your pardon, Sir,
 you must believe other things
 to be more excellent, or at
 least strangely regulate these,
 or pass for nothing consider-
 able with those Magnifico's
 if when you come into com-
 pany, you are not able to
 give a piercing judgement of
 some admirable passage in the
 Prologue of the last Play;
 if you cannot discourse on
 the intrigues of famous
 Wenchies, & deliver your own
 amorous atchievements in
 the bluntest lascivious terms;
 if you cannot mock at Vertue
 and prudence with a merriment of
 scorn and contempt, you
 will

will not be able to keep company with those Heroes. It is true, there are some Jun-
 toes of Gallants, that will admit you of their Society; if you can but Discourse tolerable of good Wine, of dressing and the Mode of your habiliments; if you can deliver a pretty good judgement of a new Tune, or a French Dance; if you will be a companion with them at a Play, and at the other divertisements of their lives, which are Women and Wine; if you are able to do those things, you are accomplisht enough for them, and they require not
 of

om- of a *Novitiate* so great a capa-
 It city, and such mighty under-
 un- takings as the grander socie-
 will ties; for they penetrate into
 y; nothing more desperate than
 ol. the outside; nor covet a high-
 of er fame, than of (as they
 our call it) honest and good na-
 de- tured Gentlemen. But you
 ent must not live so peaceably in
 nch the society of the other, they
 n- are men that are ruled by
 y, the Ideas of great and gene-
 ars rous actions: it is true, Elo-
 o- quence is part of their busi-
 re- ness, but yet it is inferiour to
 ou their Love of Arms. It is con-
 or fessed that they are men of
 of wit enough, and it is not

to be denied but that there is great generosity in them; for they pretend to value persons for their worth, and hate a fop, though he spreads himself in a great many Titles, or stands mounted on half a score Mannors; they are courteous and obliging to their inferiours, desiring no ceremonies to be paid to their acquirements, and grandeur, shewing as little to those who expect it; they are alwaies in humour, and in short; if they were not so fatally corrupted, they are perfectly practised in all the arts of the most obliging

liging conversations. Thus
 far they have drawn Vertue
 right, and hitherto they have
 merited the glory of extraor-
 dinary men; but yet, though
 they have given society so de-
 licate a shape, they have yet
 put to it a Face truly ugly and
 horrid: nay there are found
 among these men, the most
 fatal Ruiners of so many ex-
 cellent qualities which the
 world laments the loss of;
 neither have they been satis-
 fied with their own liberties,
 but a strange ambition trans-
 ports them, to give Laws to
 the Universe, and to over-
 turn the old Regiment socie-

ty : I find celebrated in a late Printed Discourse, the sufficiency of an excellent Poet, to instruct Mankind in the most important points they ought to believe, whilst at the same time, the Author mocks at the dullness of a heavy and Phlegmatick Gown-man, as being incapable of such a task ; but though people may make such things the subject of their Discourse, yet I did not imagine any necessity of telling it to the world ; because to make good such pretences, they must excell the endeavours of many Ages, and
 practise

practise an industry that agrees not with their pleasures. I must confess I was a little surprized at this passage, not only as it shewed a strange neglect of all others but the Poets ; but also, as it was an attempt of great vanity to lessen the respect is paid to distinguished Professions. We will allow them to be adored by their own Society, but they cannot so easily overcome the sentiments of mankind : it is yet a pretty self-flattery that we find amongst some men, who believe that the affairs of the Universe are so trifling and so

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much

much at leisure, as to stop themselves to take a concernment in their affectations: He replied handsomly and smartly, on the great but affected Orator of Rome, who demanded of him, (meeting him in his return home) what was the vogue of Rome concerning him, and his management of affairs, to whom he answered, where hast thou been all this while, O Tully? Intimating by that feigned ignorance, that Rome was a place so continually crouded with glorious occurrences, that the worth and the sufficiency of one man, was but like an undistinguished

distinguished drop, in that bright
 Abyss of noble actions; so
 whilst the world finds the
 benefit of its present regiment,
 it is not at leisure to listen to
 what is offered it to the con-
 trary, though with the greatest
 Eloquence, and art. But,
 Sir, I know not how to dismiss
 this Subject with these short
 Remarques; and I must en-
 tertain you a little longer upon
 it. The Age has already
 allowed them the Title of
 excellent, and they might
 have spared it in their own
 writings; had any but one of
 themselves, practised that odd
 sort of civility, of shewing
 their

their Readers the way to the
 apartments of their worth
 and merit, they had imme-
 diately been conveyed to the
 Stage, and there severely lash'd
 in Comedy. But all things
 are handsome in those we
 admire; besides it is found,
 that such a sort of assurance,
 has a peculiar pleasing address,
 whilst Modesty sits behind all
 the caresses of this Age.
 They would raise Poesie,
 (especially Dramaticque) to
 that perfection, as to be ca-
 pable of Governing all the
 generous, noble, and accom-
 plisht thoughts of mankind:
 what they may do for the
 time

time to come, I am not able
 to say; but what they have
 already performed, comes
 short of the justice of such
 pretences. How much their
 art, reckoning them Drama-
 tiques, (for under that cha-
 racter they love to be esteem-
 ed) has been rather an incon-
 venience, than an advantage to
 the world, any of their heavy
 Corrivals may make it appear.
 And since they are become
 the Idolaters of the Heathen
 Vertue, we may see how un-
 capable they are of the con-
 duct of Nations, only pro-
 fessing Vertue. Let them tell
 us, if they please, what Ages
 of

of Roman bravery were inspired from the Stage; or at what memorable times, their glorious Eagles took their flights by the rules of a Drama: such easie representations were then, (as Farces are now in *France*) for the *Rout* and *Plebeans*, whose ignorance made them incapable of spending more advantageously their vacations from the wars. But the noble Youth were continually perfecting in fields, or in the other affairs of the Common-wealth, the characters of manly glory, in which they acquired and exercised a Virtue, too boisterous

stous and robust for the Po-
 tick Pen to manage; and if
 any of them built magnificent
 Theatres, it was only to be-
 get an admiration of their
 greatness amongst those, who
 were uneapable of under-
 standing the advantages and
 dignity of their Vertue. And
 we remember moreover, that
 a great Captain was forced to
 shut up the Theatres of his
 Confederates, to oblige them
 to defend their Patrimonies,
 which yet they did like men
 who had learn'd War from
 the Stage: and such things
 by the witnesses of all records,
 had never an Universal love
 and

and esteem, but in effeminate
 and trifling Ages. But to look
 nearer into their pretences, the
 great thing in which they tri-
 umph, is an Heroick Play,
 which yet is imperfect in that
 Vertue of which they boast:
 they have made the three
 grand characters of a Hero,
 to be Love, Honour, and
 Friendship; but to what fan-
 tastick heights they have raised
 these is apparent in their Po-
 ems. They have made Love
 to be the hot passion of an
 hour; tried by Chymærical
 and odd experiments; unpra-
 cticable to the World; and
 rather an Idea fit to misguide
 the

the leisure and the sentiments
 of Youth, than capable of
 giving any just assistance to the
 occasions of Life: he that
 pretends to instruct, is not to
 celebrate the things that hap-
 pen, but the things that ought
 to be. Their Honour con-
 sists in an obstinacy to com-
 bat necessity and time; in
 maintaining the feiry ground
 of Fame; to vanquish Rea-
 son and generosity in the con-
 tempt of life; gathering the
 spreading glory of a Hero into
 a single punctilio. This is
 their Honour, as much Chy-
 mærical as their Love. Nei-
 ther is their Friendship less
 idle,

idle, whilst it consists in re-
 signing an adored Mistress
 in becoming the confident of
 amours; or a Knight Errant
 pursuing the capricio of a
 other; a scrving up the cou-
 rage of a friend to those fan-
 tastick heights, where we can
 dare to perish with him.
 cannot imagine what the
 world has to do with such
 Idzas, only proper for that
Elizium, so much the Idol of
 their Poetry. Moreover, there
 is to be observed the confusi-
 on and defects in their Pre-
 cepts: Poetick Love (ac-
 cording to the rules of their
 own Art) can happen to no

albi

Hero

Hero but once in his life, and
 for all the rest of his years he
 remains untaught; the Poet
 interposes critically whilst he
 has an Amour in his head, but
 he abandons him unworthily,
 when he should perfect the
 characters of highest glory:
 he teaches him to strut and
 to bluster, and to speak half
 a dozen Verses when he dies,
 but he guides him not at all
 through the Labyrinths of difficult
 affairs. He tells him what is
 Honour, on the fantastick
 point he stands; but he
 cunningly omits to guide his
 mind on the bright traverses
 of a publick good: he is busie
 about

about youth, whilst the Regions of Manhood and of Age are left without a path, or any track of Vertue and Renown: when the Gallant is weary of living like a Beast, when he has finished the Love and the Atheism of his youth, the Poet has left a dark-space before him, without the light of any preceptor or instruction. But all their Heroes must die when they are young, or live ingloriously when they have finished their youthful Intrigues. Besides, were their Heroick Vertue perfect, it could concern but a few persons in a Nation, whilst all the

Re- the lesser Scholars must re-
 Age main untaught: what is left
 or for them but the idle intrigues
 Re- of Farce and Comedy; filled
 it is with impertinences, and the
 ast, most loathsome Vices; and
 ow if they pretend to instruct by
 th, this, it must be by the rules
 ace of contrary: Certainly never
 ght any that undertook so impor-
 on tant a conduct, discharged it
 die with less generosity and fide-
 ive lity. And in fine, if we may
 ave judge of the cause by the
 n- effect, we shall find that man-
 eir ner of censure very disadvan-
 it tagious to their art; where
 er- are the Heroes they have fa-
 all shioned by their Precepts?
 he What

What proofs do we receive of
 that Vertue with which they
 have inspired them? I wish
 we had no reason to complain
 of the contrary, and that the
 Grossness of their Drama-
 ticque Vices were not a bur-
 then heavy to the world;
 instead of teaching them to
 burn like Heroes, they have
 made them love like beasts;
 and all the industry of the
 Stage, has helpt them to no-
 thing more refin'd in that pas-
 sion, than what is common
 to the Goat, and the Bull.
 Ye mighty Directors of our
 Vertue! do ye not blush to
 see the dullness of your Scho-
 lars?

ve others? and lament to find so
 they much perverseness, in times
 when there flourish such able
 poets? You throw away
 the your glorious Precepts, whilst
 you talk of Heroickness, to
 your impertinent and groveling
 Generation. Or is it, Sir, con-
 trary to their inclinations that
 they write Heroick Poems;
 whilst a Poetick fury carries
 them to celebrate those Idæas.
 which they repent of, and
 recant in a loose Comedy:
 and without doubt they as
 well understand the capacity
 of the Age, as their own
 humour in such actions: if
 they did not, they would
 never

never talk so unprofitably
 them as they do; for what
 benefit are they like to receive
 from such trifling instructi-
 ons; as correct writing with-
 out the preposition at the end
 of a Verse, or the niceties of
 Grammar; as if a Hero were
 to speak with that exactness
 as if he stood in fear of a Fir-
 mla. Moreover, what is it of
 moment to the instruction of
 this Age, whether *Achilles* drew
 his whinyard at *Agamemnon*
 or whether *Rinaldo* endange-
 red with his, the home-spun
 Breeches of *Godfrey of Boloin*
 what does this signify to the
 practical Vertue of Gentle-
 men?

ly men? Those who take upon
 them to form the Genius of
 an Age, are to consider what
 is useful, and like to occur,
 and they ought to decline
 chimeras, that fly too high for
 practice and experience; such
 airy perfections, like Ro-
 mances, may fill the head
 with chymaras; but they can
 not be the Directors of action;
 which is the beauty and the
 life of Precepts. Besides,
 all prudent managers of pub-
 lic sentiments, are to con-
 sider, that in such Draughts
 they must exhibit to after
 times, what they will admire
 and imitate, or what they
 will

D

will explode and scorn; for he is too short sighted, who only accommodates his Precepts, to the easie and the vicious humour of an Age, and forms not that, which must endure the shock of an impartial and severe Posterity : and I believe some of our Poets imagine that the inconveniences of their present instructions, will be so sensibly prejudicial to the next Age, as to make them abhor the fatal intrigues of this; who will besides, have reason to mock at those sleght draughts of Vertue, and those airy thin perfections, which will be exceeded

for preceded by the least reality :
 who if they say that this is not
 required from a Poet whose
 vi-part is to please ; we answer ;
 and That it is from a Philosopher,
 in-and from those who pretend
 to direct whole Generations.
 And since they have raised
 their ambition to the universal
 Monarchy of wit, it becomes
 them to invent a Regiment,
 suitable to that character ;
 and not expect with a few
 words to command all the
 legions of Learning. Or is
 not so much their desire to
 oblige, as to destroy ? Is it their
 ambition, (like his that burnt
 the Temple of Diana), to be
 known

known the Authors of the
 ruine of those excellent principles
 which so many Ages have
 honoured and revered; and to
 proscribe all Vertue, Sobriety
 & antient honour; as if a man
 were to build his reputation
 on the quicksands of vitious &
 inglorious practices; esteeming
 it a weakness worthy of
 reproach, to be moderately
 wicked, or to boggle at an
 impiety, whose degrees are
 hardly to be matcht in Hell.
 Some there are who by such
 prodigious accomplishments
 having gotten great and ad-
 mired names, become the
 Patrons, and Darlings of the
 Youth.

the Youth, who willingly sacrifice their early Vertue, their private Interests, and the repose of their Family, to their mighty Reputation; and think it mean enough to make them wear the Title of wits for ever, if as they but be admitted to drink, and swear, with their glorious Masters. But I now grow weary, Sir, of taking a farther account of such actions, which are yet they have not more fail'd them, than in the principles of the best prudence. And those who debauch and effeminate Nations, may be pleasing, but they can never be wise and generous Directors: they argue

gue strangely who affirm, that it is necessary for some times to be laid to sleep, free from the thoughts of Vertue and glory, thereby to bury faction and sedition; since nothing can be more the security and renown of just and excellent Princes, than the manlinesse and gallantry of their Subjects. Moreover, it is a double indiscretion, to soften and charm our Youth with luxuries and pleasures, so near the best grounded Ambition of Europe; degenerating the ancient Vertue of the *English*, whilst others are brightning and illustrating of theirs.

thus

thus to misguide so considerable a part of the Universe, only for the Fame of having the conduct, is what an excellent Poet has no reason to glory in; whom we must allow to excell in his way, though with no justice to claim to his Art, the directing of Ages. Neither can I imagine, what should transport them to assume so painful a Dominion over all the Provinces of Learning; 'tis not agreeable to the delicacy of their living, to be troubled with the affairs of so vast an Empire: they had better leave it to that Administration under which it lies,

lies, then appropriate it as the task of that vivacity and fancy, which like the Gallicque briskness is quickly tired. But I have kept you too long, Sir, in this consideration; I will lead you to the conversation which is sometimes found amongst those persons, whose pretences are so haughty: and who live in great neglect of their own Idæas; contradicting in their lives, what they magnifie and extoll in their Poetry: I will not say it of that Person whom we just now mentioned; but we can too truly affirm it of many of that Art.

The

The first great subject of their entertainments is Atheism; which is not now owned with a blush, but on the contrary, esteemed a piece of gallantry, and an effect of that extraordinary wit in which we pretend to excel our Ancestors: the great principle of these sentiments, is matter of strange opinion about the Creation of the World; some following Aristotle, others Epicurus. Those who imagine that the world did never begin, have took the belief from the imperious Stageite, rather out of an unknowing admiration of his name,

name, than any just reason that has accompanied the assertion : for to what reason can it pretend ; or how is it likely, that the World was Eternal, when the memory of all things are but of Yesterday ! (for to Eternity, the small portion of time Recorded, merits no larger a name) how has it come to pass, that so many thousands of Ages should leave no Records behind them, nor no Monuments of all they did, nor all they had design'd to do : the most antient accounts that are produced, except by the Jews, are the Theban War : and the great

great Funerals of Troy, (actions of times easily computed:) and which if they are not fabulous, they appear at least ridiculous in the Records of the Poets. But how is it likely, that Eternity should be the Parent of nothing more antient, nor more considerable in that vast flux of Ages, many great Empires must have rose, flourish'd, and declined; many useful and excellent Arts must have been invented, and practis'd; and many just, as well as bloody Laws, must have been establish'd and executed. Some man or other, in so many births,

births, must have been so
 considerable for his Vertue,
 and his grand Actions, as to
 leave at least his name, and
 some dark stories of his deeds,
 from one Age to another.
 Some Tyrant for barbarous
 and inhumane cruelties, must
 have been so odious and so
 much detested, as to have
 left a hateful memory and
 name to after times: but then
 good, and the bad, have been
 equally forgotten; and nei-
 ther ambition, greatness, va-
 lour, riches, nor beauty, had
 then the advantages they have
 since acquired, of perpetu-
 ating the memory of their
 owners:

for owners : this great silence of
 all things, but what stand so
 near the present Ages, is a
 most convincing proof of the
 Worlds Creation, and of its
 Creation not very long ago.
 The other opinion, though
 most imbraced by this
 Generation, yet it is so ridi-
 culous, that a man of reason
 should be ashamed to owne it.
 which affirms, that several
 Troops and Parties of Atoms,
 (raised first by an unknown
 Commission) after they had
 rang'd the field of an infinite
 space, did at last under the
 conduct of chance alone, (for
 they allow no greater a cause
 to

to have commanded in the morning of the Universe.) rendezvous in a most glorious and beautiful World; that so many pieces of such admirable workmanship, so many businesses, and so many offices, of the beginning, maintenance, and preservation of all the kinds of life, had no other cause but an undesigned impetuous chance: yet this opinion, as ridiculous as it is, is become the principle of their grandest debauchments; on which they Discourse with so much liberty, and bluntness, as is the astonishment of serious persons.

But

the ~~first~~ they equally hate that
 modesty in Learning, which
 they do in Love; and they
 strive to have their Souls
 equally debauched as their Bo-
 dies; hazarding the one in
 of opinions, as the other with
 exploits. A Vertuous
 person how ever ought to be
 careful of the innocence of his
 mind; lest there may, nay
 there will, come a time, when
 he must want those tranquill-
 ities: which is moreover, no
 slight admonition for our
 Disasters, especially since some of
 them (like Caligula) are Atheists
 only in fair weather.
 Their next great entertain-
 ment

ment is Marriage, which they treat most ingloriously, affirming it to be the clogg of generous minds; and the greatest impediment to the ambition of Heroes: they believe mankind has suffered in nothing more, than in the restraints and captivities of Wedlock; and that no freedom ought to be more dear to his nature, than wild and rambling Lusts. They think the World took ill advice when it abridged it self of so sweet a pleasure, by yielding to an Institution, that so much dulls and baffles the Spirits, and though they are themselves

selves the issue of these Beds;
 yet they cannot believe but
 their constitution had been
 much more sprightly and ge-
 nerous, if they had been born
 by a Mistress; and that their
 inclinations had been more
 elevated and high to great un-
 dertakings: they believe that
 without doubt, the Crescents
 of the *Ottomans*, had before
 now been filled up with blood,
 and slaughters, if there had
 been such a generation born
 into these parts of the World;
 and that their arms had suc-
 ceeded as fortunately as those
 of the *Macedon*. What ever
 was the belief of their Fathers,
 they

they resolve to give the World
 the proofs of a better judge-
 ment, and a braver Soul;
 which makes them scoff at
 Wedlock, priding themselves
 in their own freedom; and
 with a scornful pity, despising
 the Captives of that state
 they esteem no man ridiculous
 in the Town, but the votary
 of Matrimony; and he that
 happens to be so of their own
 Fraternity, if he does not sigh
 under that yoke, if he does not
 curse the folly of his nature,
 that betrayed him to so grand
 a slavery, they discard him as
 unfit for their conversations:
 and indeed they have found
 persons

persons ridiculous enough to
 as they would have them;
 whom they represent, that
 the flighting of the pleasures
 of Marriage, is a greatness of
 Soul, that scorns to be im-
 position; but that the pursuing
 variety of amours, is the pe-
 culiar gusto of a great wit:
 that is a principle from
 which they must not recede,
 that all their extravagancies,
 are not only the pleasing of
 their Humours, but insepara-
 ble proofs of extraordinary
 capacities: they must believe
 that it was an effect of their
 Fineness and Dexterity, to
 bring wenching into so great
 an

an esteem, and that nothing less than their Industry and Arts, could have laid Matrimony under so much reproach, as the present Age does find it, this is their business, in their converses, the Play-House, and all their entertainments; where if they have occasion to represent to the Gallants a Comical fop, they make him one who is wheedled into Matrimony. Vain and trifling Politicians! whom the World has so much reason to thank for the advantages you procure it, what shall it do with your sentiments? except unravel the richest

richest imbroideries of anti-
 cipation, generosity and prudence;
 and make all its affairs as ridi-
 culous as your practices; do
 you desire it should be so half-
 witted, as for your allurements
 to betray the charge of so ma-
 ny Ages? But yet, Sir, the
 progress they have already
 made is very deplorable; the
 contempt of Wedlock in the
 Town grows very common;
 and we have reason to accuse
 the great managers of that
 Humour: they would do
 well to satisfy us, either what
 nobleness, what gratitude, or
 wisdom they can ascribe to
 their practices; they are very
 rude

rude and disobliging to a con-
 siderable part of the Universe
 and offer mankind a great as-
 front. They are strangely
 respectful to their Fathers
 who liv'd in an Age better
 qualified; and who convey'd
 them hither in the circles of
 that despised Wedlock: had
 they not stood on the founda-
 tions of blood, and fortune,
 but been forc'd to have rose
 by their industry and merit;
 the World had possibly look'd
 upon them with contempt, in
 a low Sphear. And then how
 do they discharge the charac-
 eter of wise managers? With-
 out doubt, Marriage is the
 foundation

foundation to times occurren-
 ces, and the principle of ex-
 cellent affairs; and if this foun-
 dation should be fatally corrupt,
 it would injure considerably,
 all the advantages that flow
 from it: for if any Generati-
 on should come into the
 World promiscuously, all
 things would be unsorted and
 mixt, and the claims of eno-
 ble Vertue, Blood, and pos-
 sessions must be made unsuc-
 cessfully; all things must be
 in again, or yield to such a
 disorder and confusion, as
 would soon involve the most
 flourishing Nations in ruine
 and distractions: thus what
 the

the prudence and the industry of many Ages, had formed into a peaceful, and a happy Regiment, thereby rendering the succession of Families tranquil and secure, would be broken and disordered, and the Parent can leave to his children only the adventure of an uncertain condition; and that Family that was Rich, Potent, and esteemed, mixing its blood inconsiderately, loses insensibly those advantages; and he that would raise Monuments of excellent things, must not only begin anew, but leave them unfinished when he dies, for

It has club'd to the uncertain
 issue of a Harlot, yet they
 pretend no right in the
 splendours of their disputed
 numbers; and no glory, re-
 volution, and vertue would
 be perfect, whilst it has only
 the assistances of one Age,
 and those discouraged by the
 consideration of their decay:
 thus in the Ottoman Empire,
 whilst the greatest Minister
 conveyed nothing to his
 children, through all their
 successions, there remain no
 monuments of antient vertue,
 greatness, or power, whilst
 the children are not permitted
 to inherit any of the acquists

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of

of their Fathers: and he that is took up to the highest places of Honour, and command, considers not that he is to bear himself suitable to the Fame and Vertue of his Ancestors; nor that he is to leave the family dignities and reputation to his children, but he lives unjustly, carelessly, and voluptuously, and is only intent on his present satisfaction: and the same it would be in various enjoyments, and the neglects of Marriage; from which appears the imprudence of those who pretend to instruct this Age: and we have reason to believe, that either some extraordinary

ordinary event must inter-
 pose to vindicate such excel-
 lent affairs, or else they are
 fitt to decline, till they min-
 gle ruines with the Universe:
 those, Sir, who think these
 Remarks trifling, consider not
 the strange progress of Vices;
 for though it is chiefly
 amongst persons somewhat
 above the vulgar, that Marri-
 age is ingloriously treated, yet
 those distempers will descend
 from the noble parts, as fast
 as the capacities of instruments
 can convey them down: as
 we see it has been already in
 prodigious Swearing, and
 other vices. And were not

wisdom and nobleness strangers to this Age ; those who pretend to the fairest endowments of the mind, would never practise the greatest follies of it : I cannot imagine what they would do with that wild liberty they endeavour to introduce, 'tis a strong sort of leveling they wish to see in the World ; and there needs but great eloquence to make appear the benefits it would receive from it. hitherto we have dreaded it as a Torrent that would quite overflow the fairest inclosures of human nature ; and we cannot perceive their own ability to stem

an- them that Tempest : but
 who they care only for the present ;
 and think not themselves at all
 oblig'd to look after the in-
 terests of the world. All that
 can be said to these men, is,
 that if their fore-fathers had
 been of their Temper, they
 might now have been Bar-
 bers, or Grooms, or left to
 the Parish, who pretend to
 fixer Titles.

re- The next great subject of
 their Discourses, is the disho-
 ours of Women ; those whom
 they have not overcome with
 their addreses, they will be
 sure to conquer with their
 tongues ; and hardly leave

wisdom and nobleness strangers to this Age ; those who pretend to the fairest endowments of the mind, would never practise the greatest follies of it : I cannot imagine what they would do with that wild liberty they endeavour to introduce, 'tis a strong sort of leveling they wish to see in the World ; and there needs but great eloquence to make appear the benefits it would receive from it : hitherto we have dreaded it as a Torrent that would quite overflow the fairest inclosures of humane nature ; and we cannot perceive their own ability to

that Tempest : but they care only for the present ; and think not themselves at all oblig'd to look after the interests of the world. All that can be said to these men, is, that if their fore-fathers had been of their Temper, they might now have been Barbers, or Grooms, or left to the Parish, who pretend to higher Titles.

The next great subject of their Discourses, is the dishonour of Women ; those whom they have not overcome with their addresses, they will be sure to conquer with their tongues ; and hardly leave

an honest Woman in the Town; they are so charitable to think, there never was any such, but those who liv'd solitarily, and were never attacked by a powerful Countship; and they particularly attribute want of these successes to the undexterous Assaulter; but they know not how to believe, that where any so redoubted as themselves, laid siege to a Woman, that she was ever able to withstand the force of their Vcaresses. This is a thing that makes up a great part of their divertisement, to recount their particular victories; which per-
haps

haps to oblige posterity, they
 are so kind as to record them
 in some lascivious Songs: and
 indeed to give them what they
 call their due; they obtain too
 many conquests of this na-
 ture; as it is not to be expected
 otherwise, from an assiduity
 and an industry great as theirs.
 But yet, with their favour, it
 favours but little of good
 breeding, or good nature, (for
 higher considerations are non-
 sense to them) to reap the
 effects of anothers easiness or
 kindness, and then to spread
 it in every company; whilst
 none but those persons who
 are strangely vicious, can de-

light in that society, where nothing but the dishonours and scandals of Women are constantly repeated; which besides the subject, is done in a language so innocent, modest, and ingenious, that it is strange such great wits, should delight in so barren conceptions: they pretend to admire the soaring, and refinedness of the fancy, but I know never a Plowman, but might deliver himself with as much variety of imagination, as they do upon these subjects: and were it not for that strange pleasure, they find in exceeding the prescriptions of vertue,

and

and modesty, and in scorning
 the limits are set to the extra-
 vagancies of men, they would
 blush themselves at such a
 sort of ingenuity: I do believe,
 that never in any Age, was
 there such a violent and uni-
 versal thirst after the Fame of
 being wits, and yet no Age
 has possible discharg'd it self,
 with less real applause in
 those pretences; wit, though
 it be properly the vivacity,
 and the agreeableness of the
 fancy, yet there ought to be-
 long something more to that
 high quality, than a little
 flash and quibble, which yet
 is all that this Age has bid for

that mighty Fame: and it is not to be question'd, but that the next generation, will be at a loss to find out that wit of which their Fathers so much boasted: we affect the beautiful trimming of foreign words; the youth, and pleasantness of the fancy, but the subject is contemptible on which this dress is bestowed; which with time wearing sullied and out of Mode, nothing will appear so ridiculous as that unvalued subject; of which we may say, as the Poet did once of the Woman; that it is the least part of it self. Besides, when they are witty,

witty, they are alwaies be-
 holding to Monsieur; in
 which they equally discredit
 themselves, and their Nation:
 so place wit in a Mode of
 words, is little commendati-
 on to the fancy of him that
 wears it; a sufficient quanti-
 ty of these words are used
 every day by a blockhead,
 whilst yet they penetrate into
 the nature of nothing, but
 like Arrows shot into the Air,
 fall idly back upon the Earth:
 and then their Nation is little
 beholding to them, whilst
 they undervalue its antient,
 and unaffected language: I
 cannot but think, that our
 Ancestors

Ancestors understood themselves as well as we do, and spoke as much to the content and pleasure of those they entertain'd; who yet larded not their Discourses with ends of *French*; they were careful of the true glory of *English* men, to justify the Dominion of their Language, equal to the Dominion of their Seas: men think our Nation blushes, and appears out of countenance to see it self neglected, whilst the leight Gallia receives all the Courtships of its ungrateful youth, and it has reason enough for a just indignation; whilst it is done with
 the

the perverting of a better Ge-
 ditions, and a rendering that
 fantastick which was before
 serious and manly. As every
 thing which is natural is the
 most handsom, so it is free
 from the follies of affectation;
 and as much as we have studi-
 ed to Ape the *French*, we have
 yet only reach'd that perfecti-
 on as to be ridiculous: be-
 sides, they look upon us as a
 Nation to whom they give
 the Laws of Mode; and
 presently ravish with tran-
 sports from them, the small-
 est trifles they are pleased
 to countenance; this is
 a great pride to them,
 whilst

whilst they see themselves
 to preside over our Geni-
 us, and to guide it into
 all the fashions which their
 rambling fancies take. The
Spaniard (though affected
 enough in this way) yet
 this understands his reputation
 on; whilst having disputed
 with them for the universal
 Monarchy, scorns to truckle
 under the Laws of their
 Mode; and sullenly keeps to
 a fashion of some hundreds of
 years, rather than to appear
 inclined to the lightness of his
 neighbours. But it were bet-
 ter to let them command our
 dresses, than our Language;
 because

because these are to be altered
 in time, whilst the other
 should be left pure and unble-
 ished to posterity; from
 whom we betray the glory of
 our Fathers. This ought to
 be the principle concernment
 of the wits; because as they
 guide the inclinations of the
 youth, so they are capable of
 delivering themselves sweetly
 and pleasantly, in the native
 beauties of our Language;
 and can render their concep-
 tions lovely, without the paint
 and embellishments of *France*:
 as they must rescue our cap-
 tive Language from the fet-
 ters of that Tongue: which
 would

would be more generous in them, and procure them a greater Fame, than to make their boast (as I know some of them do) that he cannot write well in our Language, who understands not the *French*. It is no wonder to hear a Fop, pride himself in store of *French* words; because his memory is all the fountain of his sence; but it is not so with the Poets, who pretend to the most elevated and most refined notions. A speak not this, Sir, out of disrespect to that Language, highly necessary to all that frequent Courts; and that have

have to do in the important
 affairs of the world: but yet,
 where that and our own Lan-
 guage dwell together in the
 same capacity, like the cur-
 rents of the *Savas*, and *Danu-*
bis, they should never mix in
 all their conversations.

But, Sir, I have kept you
 long enough in these confide-
 rations. You may now just-
 ly expect something to divert
 you. Let us then compare
 some of the ordinary Town
 Adventures, and Exploits with
 the sentiments before menti-
 oned; and indeed, it is their
 actions that will be most ca-
 pable of transporting you to

a glorious emulation ; for though the sweetness and the beauty of Discourse, is a thing very enamouring, yet action is the darling of youth, and of a sprightly disposition. Rome found its old men busied for their Eloquence, in relieving distressed Clients, and in appeasing the disorders of the people ; but the youth were continually busied in the Wars, and generous achievements ; and indeed all Nations, have esteemed with of a second ventur to Arms. now, Sir, if you have this ambition about you, you shall not fail of meeting in the
Town

for down with strange satisfacti-
 ons. There are men, who
 begin not the day till noon;
 yet the morning affording the
 sweetest sleeps, and the pillow
 being the best place to take
 Counsel on, for the adven-
 tures of the evening: that of
 the Play-house is the first
 stage, where they can support
 the repetition of an old Play, if
 they can but make Love to a
 new Beauty: they come not
 hither to learn wit, for they
 preside over the Language
 of the Stage: but they come
 like true Knights Errant, in
 search of adventures; and their
 Humours are so much allied
 to

to the Romance, that they
 can do nothing without the
 Distressed Lady; where if
 any thing heightens their ap-
 petite, and pleases their fan-
 cy, by the little sleights of a
 Masque, or some pretty strat-
 agem, they become eager of
 the Quarry, and apply them-
 selves to all the arts of that
 Game: but their principal
 business in this House, is to
 meet their Friends, and to
 joyn themselves in a Squa-
 dron for some gallant exploit
 which perhaps is first at a
 House of pleasure, and then
 the French House; where ha-
 ving repeated their former
 gallantries,

they gallantries, and heightened
 their courage, with eloquence
 and Wine, they are fit to ga-
 up their fresh Bays for the Gar-
 and of their triumphs; and
 to add a new lustre to their
 former actions. In these
 of brave Humours, has many a
 Watchman been forc'd to
 measure his length upon the
 ground; the poor Constable
 been put beside the gravity of
 his Interrogatories; — Many
 a numerous Female has been
 forc'd to fill the air with
 shrieks, and complainings:
 whilst during this close en-
 gagement, the thundering
 Cannon of their Oaths, have
 with

with horrouf fill'd the neigh-
 bourhood: and when they
 have obtain'd such victories
 as these, lest they should not
 find an Historian capable of
 Recording to the life, their
 noble performances, they are
 committed to the Pages of a
 Sonnet: whilst our Gallants,
 like the Roman, conquer and
 write at the same rate; and
 indeed to such a courage, such
 an eloquence is necessary,
 lest the life and vigour of their
 actions should languish in the
 dullness of ordinary Stiles.
 It is, Sir, to such dreadful
 things as these you must be
 bred, if you cover such com-
 pany;

any; they call their all that
 faint hearted, or unfit for
 Wars, or that have not a
 body capable to indure the
 Discipline, and toils of their
 Camp: to be a great wit, is
 an imperfect qualification,
 for they associate with none
 for speculative pleasures: and
 esteem him ignoble, who dares
 not act at the rate he can di-
 ctate: which has been found
 in the fortune of some mo-
 dern wits, who have been
 neglected, because unfit for
 exploits: so that if you would
 joyn your self to the conver-
 sation of these Gallants, you
 must well examine your suf-
 ficiency

ficiency and courage for the
 highest atchievement. There
 is moreover, another task be-
 longs to him that accompanies
 with them; and will pass for a
 wit in the Town, that is, you
 must write a Play: which is a
 kind of fantastical necessity
 imposed by fashion on a Gen-
 tleman, who is obliged to ha-
 zard his abilities, on such
 niceties of Fame, & Humour:
 the case is not the same with
 him as with a mercenary Po-
 et, who ventures for his gain,
 & not like a Hero, whom the
 desire of glory alures to write:
 the first can support a miscar-
 riage, not only through ne-
 cessity,

necessity, but also by the advantages of getting money: but the other, according to the chymærical rules of their honour, ought to dispatch himself with his own unfortunate Pen, which has so ill served the interests of his glory, and blush to survive so shameful an overthrow: he that performs any thing of this nature, ventures at the first rank of wits; and to gain the highest steps, where this Age has mounted its ambition: but he that is unsuccessful in the attempt, falls down with the greater precipitancy amongst ordinary men; and not only

F

loses

loses his hopes, but his former standing, in the division of wits. Which has been found in some of the endeavours of our times; where those that have past for the greatest wits, venturing on the Stage have discharged themselves so ill in their pretences, that the world will by no means allow them what they formerly possessed; & are moreover grown suspicious, that amongst those they name for the greatest wits, there is that same barrenness and dullness, with which they reproach inferior men; he that has got the reputation of a wit, ought to maintain

maintain it by suspicion, and not expose too much of that quality to pitiful censures ; since he that writes, puts himself on the ordinary trial of his Country ; but he that utters only in Juncto's and Cabals, stands alone to the trial of his Equals. Who are not to judge by the general Laws of wit, but by the principles of their own honour, that is their allow'd Humour. So that both your wit and your Person, Sir, must run equal hazards in your joyning with these men. There are some it is true, not only of a more peaceable temper, but also

less ambitious of wit : but there is nothing amongst them, that will be high enough for the emulation of a Country Gentleman : their business is, to make long addreses to a Mistress, or to sit till midnight at a Tavern : where they talk judiciously of some new piece of wit that goes about the Town ; or the fortune of the Poets : to value themselves by their ability to dress well ; and their quick intelligence of a new Mode : they will entertain you with long winded and ridiculous stories of their amorous successes ; they will find fault with

with the sitting of your Periwig, or the way you have in manageing your Cloaths ; and though to follow the fashion of conversation, they will speak with Encomiums on the wits, yet they damn all sence and understanding, where the man is not adored, but in that case they are forc'd to cruckle under the Laws of Fame. And now, Sir, if you should pass from this Gentleman who pretends to do nothing ; and seek for a friendship amongst men of affairs ; you would yet miss of what you sought ; there being nothing amongst them agree-

agreeable to an indifferent person. If you go to the Inns of Court; where you will hear the distresses of Clients; with the murmurs of those who continually sollicit a capricious, or a sullen Justice: amongst men who are busied with these concerns, the *Idæa* of conversation is commonly very Pedantick, and unpolish'd; and in Truth, not worthy of a Gentleman; where men study not so much, things noble and generous, but the arts of paliating wrong, of defeating and deferring right. With what pleasure could you seek the friendship of a mighty

mighty Clark, who having a head crouded with Records & Statutes, sits drowfily brooding over unjust causes, with the wretched satisfaction of tiring out, by pedantick stratagems, the Votaries of justice; endeavouring to draw Clouds on Sun-beams, and to hang those mists on truth, that it shall wander in the clearest evidences: forcing his conscience, tamely to truckle under the love of money, and of Fame. Certainly this man can have nothing in him agreeable to the principle of Nobleness, found in a Gentleman: neither if you should

stand off from his endearments, would his indifferent conversation afford you any contentment; whilst he might entertain you with a long story of his industry in causes; with honourable Encomiums of the wise speeches of his Judges; a blind admiration of those who have wit enough to get a great deal of money; with the factions of the Bar; and the rise of famous Pleaders; and such unprofitable Harangues which signifie nothing to an indifferent Person; who is not interested in that manner of Life. If, Sir, you address your self to the younger

younger men of those Socie-
 ties; you will find many of
 them to have only just so much
 of the gallant humour as
 serves to make them singular,
 if not ridiculous; whilst they
 are the idle Imitators of those
 things they cannot come up
 to: if you have a mind to di-
 vert your self, you may be-
 hold in them, just matter for
 such an entertainment; whilst
 you shall see them manage
 the affected strut, and their
 half-moded garniture: hear
 them speak in the phrases of a
 Play, (that modish sort of
 canting) and becoming the
 insurers of their own glorious
 adven-

adventures : they damn all things but the extream niceties of humour ; and even scorn the Learning of their own Society , whilst they extoll the magnanimities of a Bravo : they pride themselves in their amours to a Sempstress ; and in swearing like those who keep company with the wits : nay you must take their oaths for their wit ; for they believe their profuseness that way , a sufficient proof of their being furnished with that quality : but with all this noise they know little of that address , of which they are the fond Idolaters. This
is

is to be understood, only of
 the vain, the imperfect, and
 the half-witted part of them.
 For these societies are, other-
 wise, the Nurseries of men
 of great abilities, and Vertues.
 And I believe I have said enough,
 Sir, to divert you from seek-
 ing a friendship amongst those
 men. In these distresses, I
 presume you will not apply
 your self to the Merchant,
 whose business is Profit, and
 Interest; without any design
 upon the Improvement of
 Arms, letters, or conversation.
 So I cannot imagine, Sir, that
 you will seek lower for a soci-
 ety. But yet I have omitted
 one

one sort of men, where you will be confident of being relieved, and they are the new Philosophers : here indeed it were the highest injustice to say you should be deceived ; whilst they have given out themselves to have done so much for the advancement of Knowledge ; and seem to have obtain'd a victory over it, with the same celerity as *Cesar* did, who only saw and overcame. It is under their conduct that learning has made such famous acquits, whilst they have led it victorious through the glorious Regions of the Sky ;
through

through the shady Empire of
 the Main; carrying its Arms
 so far on the Continent, as to
 strike its Ensigns to the Center
 of the Earth; giving it so
 absolute and so entire a victo-
 ry, that it may now, like the
 ambitious Youth, lament the
 scarcity of Worlds. This,
 Sir, is the summ of their pre-
 tences, and what they pro-
 claim; but you will be a little
 surprized, when you shall
 find them so long groveling in
 mechanicks: and pinioning
 with those meaner arts, the
 mind, which so many Ages
 had us'd to happy flights:
 causing such a noise about the
 infirm

infirm foundation laid by our
 Ancestors, as to make the
 magnificent structure hazard-
 ous of being abandon'd by
 those eminent wits that have
 lodged in it. With these
 Gentlemen I am assured you
 will not desire to spend your
 time ; and with any of the
 former we desire you should
 not. You must in these di-
 stresses turn Gallant, and join
 your self to the company of
 Women ; to spend whole af-
 ternoons in kissing their hands,
 in admiring their dresses, and
 pretending to receive mortal
 wounds from their beauty:
 but yet, over and above that
 this

this were an idle life, you
 would be discarded if you used
 it; for we are not now adeaies
 for Lectures of Platonicks;
 since many of our Women
 are grown as hardy as the
 men, and love a tast of the
 thing you wot of, to relish
 their Conversations: they
 deride the formality of hear-
 ing long Discourses of their
 beauty, of the atchievements
 of their Sex, or any of their
 adventures that are not arch
 and couragious: so that, Sir,
 you will be more ridiculous
 in these attempts, than unsuc-
 cessful in the other. If you
 should last of all, abandon
 parti-

particular societies; and chop
 in with all in common: the
 Park, the Play-house, the
 Eating-house, and the Coffee-
 house: you will hear an unin-
 telligible buzzing, and a
 noise of what you understand
 not: some snatches of occur-
 rences, whose beauty you are
 not able to perceive without
 the knowledge of the whole:
 if passing by the benches of
 the Pit, you should hear a
 young Gallant swear, that he
 had appointed the assignation
 at eight of the clock; you
 could not tell whether it was
 an Intrigue with a Countess,
 or with a Citizens wife: if
 you

You should take a walk, and
 discover a course betwixt a
 Hero and a Lady in a Mask ;
 except you were acquainted
 with her voice, and her fashi-
 on, you could give your self
 no account of the hunted
 beauty : these things, Sir,
 would perplex that curiosity
 they could not satisfie : and
 besides, nothing at all instruct
 you in the glorious adventures
 of the Town : and then for
 that great Mart of lies and
 nonsense the Coffee-house :
 if you could furnish your self
 with so much patience, as to
 sit here half an hour ; you
 might hear one Gentleman
 say

say to another ; I am surpriz-
 ed, Sir, at the News you told
 me last night ; I did not be-
 lieve that Nation was capable
 of so much fineness and dexte-
 rity , now if you were not
 there at the precise time of ut-
 tering this intelligence ,
 the foregoing evening , you
 could not understand of whom
 it was spoken : except you
 civilly ask the question, which
 is an affront to, and below the
 gravity of that place : and be-
 sides unless you know your-
 self to be of a remorseless, and
 bloody disposition ; you will
 be extreamly moved by com-
 passion, at those Tragick Hi-
 stories

For as you will there find ut-
 tered: the Sacking of Towns,
 the cutting in pieces of gal-
 lant Troops; the approach-
 ing Catastrophies of Nations;
 the misfortunes of eminent
 statesmen; the fantastick
 crisis, under which puissant
 monarchies groan, &c. Will
 there be so continually thun-
 der'd in your ears; that you
 will often be obliged to a con-
 siderment for those Persons,
 who really stand in need of
 such compassion. Besides,
 there will be this inconveni-
 ence in general remarks; that
 you must expect to be jeer'd
 with a witness, if you pre-
 sume

sume to peep into the myste-
 ries of a Humour, of which
 you are not the Crafts-master
 the Professours of every In-
 trigue, taking a great pride
 to despise a pretending Novice
 etc. and I have known a little
 Hector, more to glory in his
 sleights he is capable of using
 in picking up a Wench, and
 in the variety of his know-
 ledge, than a great Captain
 ever did, in the stratagems and
 policies of War: the desire
 of glory and singularity is
 now as violent as ever, though
 its satisfaction is placed in such
 trifling and idle acquitements
 neither should you meet with
 equal

much contempt; if you
 me to learn the most glori-
 Myſteries of War, or rule
 on its greatest Matters; as
 you ſhall if you apply your
 ſelf to a Gallant to know the
 Modes of the Town: who
 ſets himſelf more upon ſuch
 ſufficiency than the others
 could upon theirs: ſo that it
 will by no means be agreeable
 to the height of your ſpirit, to
 pretend but in part to the Hu-
 mours of a Hero; becauſe
 you will be ſtrangely ruſſed if
 you are found ignorant in the
 moſt points. I can think for
 the preſent, of nothing elſe
 that is important in the occur-
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sume to peep into the myste-
ries of a Humour, of which

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ever did, in the
policies of War: the desire
of glory and singularity
now as violent as ever, though
its satisfaction is placed in such
trifling and idle acquitments
neither should you meet with
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much contempt, if you
to learn the most glori-
of War, or rule

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ours of a Hero, because
you will be strangely rusted if
you are found ignorant in the
most points. I can think for
the present, of nothing else
that is important in the occur-
rences

rences of the Town. And
 now, Sir, what is it that you
 see in this manner of life capa-
 ble of pleasing you? or that
 should cause you to prefer it
 before the innocence, manli-
 ness, and pleasures of your
 Country one. Do you live
 ingloriously, because you go
 to Bed at ten a clock, and can-
 not up the Sun to usher you to
 your Lodgings? Is it more
 pleasant to lie in little Rooms
 more incommodious than the
 Lodge of your Porter, than
 to be well attended, and to be
 in command in the Palace of
 your Ancestors? Is there a
 necessity that you should
 esteem

and them that day as lost, in
 which you have not signalized
 your valour on the Apple-
 men, the Constable, or the
 Glass-windows? Giving
 by such actions a lustre to the
 night in which you do them,
 that should make it capable of
 rivaling the brightness of the
 morning. I see no necessity,
 Sir, of humouring such an
 ambition: Or are you not edu-
 cated like a Gentleman, except
 you have half a score times
 been under the hands of the
 Surgeon, for the Consumpti-
 on 'tis surely a very fantastical
 Genius that governs this Age,
 to place the glory of a Hero
 in

in such odd sort of sufferings
 are you obliged by the rules of
 the new Honour, to swear so
 prodigiously, as if you were
 made Master of the Artillery
 to the Devil, or else you can-
 not be reckon'd a man of good
 utterance and sence ; We can
 here, Sir, esteem you well
 enough without such loud
 streams of Rhetorick ; and
 sufficiently value your gene-
 rosity, though you oblige not
 your lavish soul to spend all its
 vertue in a moment. You may,
 Sir, (according to our opini-
 on) try your strength better
 in the manly exercises of the
 Country, than in the De-
 baucheries

baucheries of the Town! and
 find less repugnance in making
 Love to a Lady, whose Ver-
 tue equals her Beauty, than in
 lavishly presenting of Wen-
 ches, who will spend your
 bounty as freely on a Groom,
 or a Foot-boy: your mind will
 certainly be more tranquil,
 and more capable of generous
 thoughts, that has the Ideas
 of justice and innocence to ca-
 ress it, than when it is heated
 with the exploits of the
 Town; those minds who have
 alwaies before them the
 Images of such low and com-
 mon things, can never gene-
 rate actions truly noble or
 G worthy

worthy of Heroes; since it is
 impossible for the soul to pro-
 duce any thing above its Ideas
 And in short, Sir, what satis-
 faction do you imagine my
 Lady will take in the know-
 ledge of these things: will she
 not have just reason for her
 grief and displeasures, when
 she sees how ill you improve
 the care of her education, and
 what a disagreeing structure
 you raise on such a foundation;
 she will see with infinite grief
 the disappointment of her
 hopes, whilst she must leave
 behind her only the name,
 without any of the Vertues
 that were illustrious in your
 Family:

Family : as she will reflect
 with trouble on those happy
 Mothers, who all along had a
 charge in your Race, and who
 died with the contentment of
 a prosperous conduct ; when
 at the same time, though her
 prudence and her diligence
 have equalled theirs, yet her
 charge has alone miscarried ;
 she has been a fruitful Mother,
 and set you in the cluster of
 Heroes, but she must see you
 growing dim and sullied in
 the circle of so bright a Race ;
 and she will believe that the
 glory of your house is set,
 since a name adds nothing to
 a Family, without virtuous
 G 2 endow-

endowments. And in fine, Sir, we that have hitherto been honoured with your friendship, shall not know after what manner to receive you, when you return from the Town: we know you will sufficiently despise not only our capacities but our courage; whilst we can neither talk, nor act at your admirable rate: nor I believe will you ever be able to inspire us with your gallantry of mind: we can very peaceably go to Bed by a Candle, and not desire to swim to our repose through Blood or Wine: we are guilty of that good breeding as to think it rude to
 lie

is long after the Sun; neither
have we those prodigious ad-
ventures to dream of, as could
support the Pillow to us, be-
yond the hour of twelve. Well,
Sir, we must take our leave of
you when you go, and never
expect to see that accomplished
innocent young Gentleman
again in our Country; but one
that will become the terror
of the Biggs, and the Pullen;
and that will level such an Ar-
mery of Oaths against us, as
must oblige us to stand off
with our carcases. Thus, Sir,
like Justice, you must be a
stranger in your Country; I
return again to the bosom of
your

your Heroes; where after you
 have cut off another fair
 branch of your Estate, you will
 have added enough to the tri-
 umphs of wit, & humour: and
 though with less glory, yet
 more discretion, return like a
 Consul privately home: where
 you will have time to reflect,
 like an unfortunate aspirer, on
 all the precipitancies of a wild
 ambition; and on the fanta-
 stick Paths are trod to the glo-
 ry of this Age: yet you will
 then find that all your exercise
 of Eloquence, and Arms, to
 which you had been bred in
 the Town, will not bestow up-
 on you a sufficiency to serve
 your

your Country, with reputati-
 on and success; or to preside
 over the fortune of bickering
 Nations: but though your
 Age will not feel the weight of
 your Laurels; yet it may the
 smart of your debauchments;
 and the extravagancies of an
 hour, may accompany your
 sense to the remotest moments
 of your life: and that reason to
 which time will restore its just
 Dominion, will not only with
 indignation see the miscarriage
 of its affairs, under the conduct
 of a wild Humour; but also,
 like a just Prince, behold with
 pity the ruine of its interests,
 and the fatal wastes of its inhe-
 ritage,

rittance, under the regiment of
 that Tyrant; when it must
 live a solitary and a drooping
 Monarch, lamenting the cap-
 tivity of its noblest Princes, car-
 ried away in the incursions of
 youthful lusts; and grieve to
 have arrived too late to rescue
 the fairest subjects of its po-
 wer; when the pleasures of
 what it possesses, will not be
 able to divert the trouble of
 losing what it ought to have
 enjoyed. After all, Sir, you will
 add to those numerous in-
 stances, that show to the world
 the alone power of experience:
 whilst all the remonstrances
 of others; and the admoni-
 ons

ons of our best friends can ne-
 ver prevail so effectually upon
 us as our own trial of things :
 and that he which will be
 truly wise, must be so at his
 own cost, and not expect it at
 the expences of others. Yet
 from that Experience, you
 will not receive instruction
 with that friendliness and
 sweetness, with which now
 your Relations make you their
 Remonstrances : that Lords it,
 and imposes, sitting upon our
 minds like sullen Counsellors
 in declining States : present-
 ing us not with the Picture ;
 but the Original of unplea-
 sant things. Experience is
 the

the last Instructor of mankind;
 having in it that Authority
 and Eloquence, of which ex-
 amples and precepts are de-
 stitute: whether or no, 'tis
 reserued as a punishment of
 untractable dispositions, to
 know with a blush and regret,
 what they would not receive
 with an even and a tranquil
 temper: or whether it is the
 surest way to conquer an in-
 glorious affection to Vices: cer-
 tain it is, it has triumphed
 in very great instances of its
 power, and reclaimed those
 that were impenetrable to
 sweeter arts: and there has
 not past an Age, in which

it has not done something extraordinary and eminent. But yet it was the desire of your Relations, that you might have escaped its Discipline, and that not only because it would show more generosity to be otherwise admonished; but also, because that is known to be sometimes very severe; and to have that fatality in its procedure as to ruin the subject it instructs: allowing but some few moments of being wise. We heartily wish that you may be spared from those severities; and since you will be left to the Documents of experience,

 that

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that it may deal favourably
with you, and kindly shew
you in a little, what the grea-
ter amounts to, is the passio-
nate wish of all that know
you: and particularly of,

Sir,

Your most affectionate Friend,

and humble Servant.

22 JY 63

